

FOR THE USE OF THE

A

LETTER

TO THE

PROTESTANT DISSENTERS



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(Price 1s. 6d.)

A
LETTER
TO THE
Protestant Dissenters,
K OF ALL
DENOMINATIONS,
ON THE
Present Situation of AFFAIRS.



L O N D O N :
Printed for RICHARD HETT, at the *Bible and Crown* in
the *Poultry*. M.DCC.XXXIII.

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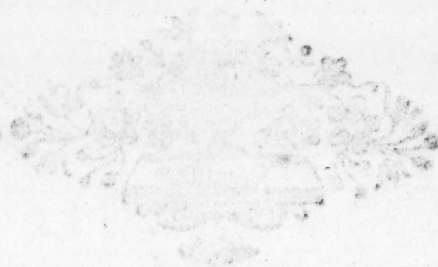
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A
LETTER
TO THE
Protestant Dissenters, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM ready to grant all that human Nature can reasonably ask for the Effect of Interest, and the Influence of Fear. I am therefore the better qualified to allow for any Intemperance that may have appeared

appeared in a late Resentment: Tho' I must have the good Opinion of you to believe, that you have a just Abhorrence of some extraordinary Proceedings against a Bill, only proffer'd to the Legislature, to be consider'd, debated, alter'd and amended, in order to produce a national Benefit, if possible, without Injury to the fair Trader.

I FREELY own, as a Landholder, I might be tempted to consider too partially the Relief from a Land-Tax, and approve of such a Bill from the Advantage I expected. And I will be so open to confess, that, as a Trader, I might have been as partial, and
join'd

join'd in the Opposition to that Bill, from the Fear of being a Sufferer by it.

MANY of us are interested in Land and Trade, and, in consequence, become thus differently affected. I say, many of us ;— for I was educated a Protestant Dissenter ; I am so now by Principle, and never was afraid or ashamed to have it appear in the Face of the World : I glory in it, that my Ancestors were a Support, a Defence, and a Refuge to the Protestant Dissenters in a Time of Persecution, when they were harra's'd, fined, and imprisoned, for worshipping God according to their Consciences.

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AN unexpected Stop, indeed, was put to this Persecution; and all on a sudden (says Bishop Burnet) the Churchmen were disgraced, and the Dissenters were in high Favour. All was Grace and Favour to them. Their former Sufferings were much reflected on, and pitied. Every thing was offered, that could alleviate their Sufferings. Some of them began to grow insolent, upon this Shew of Favour. But wiser Men among them saw through all this, and perceived the Design of the Papists was now to set on the Dissenters against the Church, as much as they had formerly set the Church against them. And therefore, tho' they returned to their Conventicles, yet they had a just Jealousy

Jealousy of the ill Designs that lay
hid under all this sudden and unex-
pected Shew of Grace and Kindness. —

They needed not to be told, that all
the Favour expected from Popery was
once to bring it in, under the Colour
of a general Toleration, till it should
be strong enough to set on a general
Persecution. — They did believe,
that this Indignation against the
Church-Party, and this Kindness to
them, were Things too unnatural to
last long. — Thus, the Bishop tells
us, the Dissenters then judg'd.
They perceiv'd the Snare ; —
they stood upon their Guard, and
soon felt the happy Effects of their
Conduct, in a glorious Revolu-
tion ; — which drove the Power

of Persecution from the Throne, and made way for the great Asserter of Liberty, King WILLIAM the Third, of dear and immortal Memory. And your Security lasted as long as his Reign. But, since that Time, is it not within our Memories how we were preparing for Destruction? Are not the very *Hands* in Being, that were hurrying on our Ruin? Don't *they* seek for the Power again?—And will you assist in helping *them* to it? Surely, we must look back with Horror at the Precipice we were then brought to;—and only escaped the fatal Push by a surprizing Event! when the all-wise and
mer-

merciful Governour of the World
interposed (once more) and gave
Place to the Succession of the Il-
lustrious House of *Hanover*, where
all our earthly Hopes were cen-
ter'd. 'Twas then we recover'd
new Life, and thankfully adored
the kind Arm that distinguished
our Deliverance, on a Day ap-
pointed to introduce our De-
struction.-----Dear and immor-
tal be the Memory of our second
glorious Deliverer, King GEORGE
the First. Happy are we, and
happy must we think our selves,
in the secure Enjoyment of our
civil and religious Liberties, un-
der the wise and mild Govern-
ment of our only rightful Sove-

reign, King GEORGE the Second:
 Happier, I was going to say, than
 their very Wishes, would our
 Fore-fathers have thought them-
 selves, in what we possess.

BUT those happy Days were
 in Reserve. — We are blest'd
 with the Possession of them; and
 have all the Prospect we can
 desire; for our Posterity, from the
 many Branches of the Royal Fa-
 mily, which are so many Secu-
 rities, against Popery, Slavery,
 and Persecution: Whilst we be-
 hold, with peculiar Delight, the
 Approach of new Strength from
 a PRINCE OF ORANGE; — a
 Name that will be precious to
 every

every Protestant Dissenter; — a
 Name we are indebted to, under
 God, for our Deliverance in
 1688. And let me tell you,
 Gentlemen, the Revolution Prin-
 ciples of that Year are the only
 Principles you can depend on;
 whatever Disguises your Enemies
 may affect. But, are you to be
 deluded by Appearances? Is it
 possible for you to put your Trust
 in a Persecutor, because he de-
 clares for Liberty of Conscience?
 I put the Question to you, and
 I submit to your Answer.

Mr. Zeal for you, and the
 Cause of Liberty, has been my
 Motive to make you this volun-
 tary

tary Address. My Affection for you is sincere; my Intentions are upright, and I can have no concealed Turn to serve. For Providence has been so good to place me above the Want of any great Man's Favour; and my natural Inclination to a private Life, makes it no Merit in me, to have no ambitious Aims to gratify. I have taken my Lot among you; I am happy in your Liberty, and I suffer in your Restraints: But, God be thank'd, your Persecutors are disarm'd, and are now begging your Assistance, to enable them to regain the Power they once had, — and made you feel, with a Vengeance. However,
it

it is your Honour and your Safety, to have this Evidence of their Weakness, and your own Strength.

Be united then, and firm to one another, in a vigorous Opposition to your experienc'd Enemies, who have hated you so sincerely, that they never attempted to make the least Shew of appearing in any Degree of Indulgence to you since the Revolution — till now, — to serve a Turn, — for their own Ends, — at an approaching Election. Against such an Imposition, I hope you are inflexibly resolv'd; and will scorn to be seduced into an

Expecta-

Expectation of having your Liberty enlarged, by the very Men who employed the latest Acts of their Power in forcing the Education of your Children from you, by an accursed Bill, which violated the natural Rights of Mankind, was a barbarous Stab to the Heart of a Parent,——and must be the everlasting Abhorrence of a Protestant Dissenter.

Now is the critical Juncture. Your Importance is acknowledg'd, and your Weight turns the Scale. Let no Resentment, therefore, give a Byass to your Minds. Consider calmly how much you
(now)

(now) depend upon your selves, and what is due to your Posterity. Seriously examine the contesting Parties; make a fair Retrospect,——and your Choice is easily determined.

I WILL only beg Leave to recommend a Distinction to your Thoughts, which may be of more Consequence than is imagin'd; and that is, the Difference between a WHIG upon a TORY-INTEREST,——and a WHIG upon a WHIG-INTEREST. —— By the first you serve the Name; but you serve the Interest by the last:——And if that Interest is yours, —— the Case is plain.

C

IN

(18)

In the most sincere and hearty
Manner I wish you every Thing
that can promote your Peace and
Happiness; and,

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most Affectionate,

Faithful, and

Devoted Servant,

October 2,
1733.

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